Meeting Between: CPSC staff and members of ASTM E5.15 Subcommittee Task Groups

Date of Meeting: March 24, 2000

Site of Meeting: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

Meeting Topic: Upholstered Furniture Flammability

Log Entry By: Dale R. Ray, EC (301) 504-0962 x. 1323

Participants: ASTM: Kurt Reimann, BASF Corp. (Task Group Chmn.)
Tom Fritz, Armstrong (Subcommittee Chmn.)
Marcelo Hirschler (Subcommittee sec'y.),
Gordon Damant, Intercity Testing Co.,
Paul Dillon, Sleep Products Safety Council,
John McCormack, California BHF, ASTM staff,
and others representing textile, furniture, chemical, & tobacco industries.

CPSC: Dale Ray, Proj. Mgr., Upholstered Furniture

Summary:

This meeting of the ASTM E.05-15 Subcommittee included discussion of the activities of the Upholstered Furniture Small Open Flame Ignition Work Group. Dr. Reimann, chairman of the small open flame work group, moderated the discussion.

Dr. Reimann gave a general overview of the work group's contacts with CPSC. Mr. Ray presented a status report on the CPSC staff's work on flammability testing, the CPSC-sponsored Interlab study, durability testing, and flame retardant (FR) chemical issues, including the National Academy of Sciences study (now expected to be completed in April, 2000), ongoing work at EPA and NIOSH, and the CPSC staff's own risk assessment activities. Mr. Ray addressed a number of questions from the meeting participants about various aspects of the CPSC standards development process, chiefly related to the timing of CPSC's technical work, the results of previous research on cigarette ignition propensity of upholstered furniture, and the availability of data from the Interlab study. There was some discussion of technical topics from the 3/20/00 FRCA meeting in Washington. Mr. McCormack also described the California BHF initiative to update TB-117. Although some discussion was expected of a possible work group initiative to establish the California TB-117 or CPSC test method as an ASTM method, there was no such discussion at the meeting.